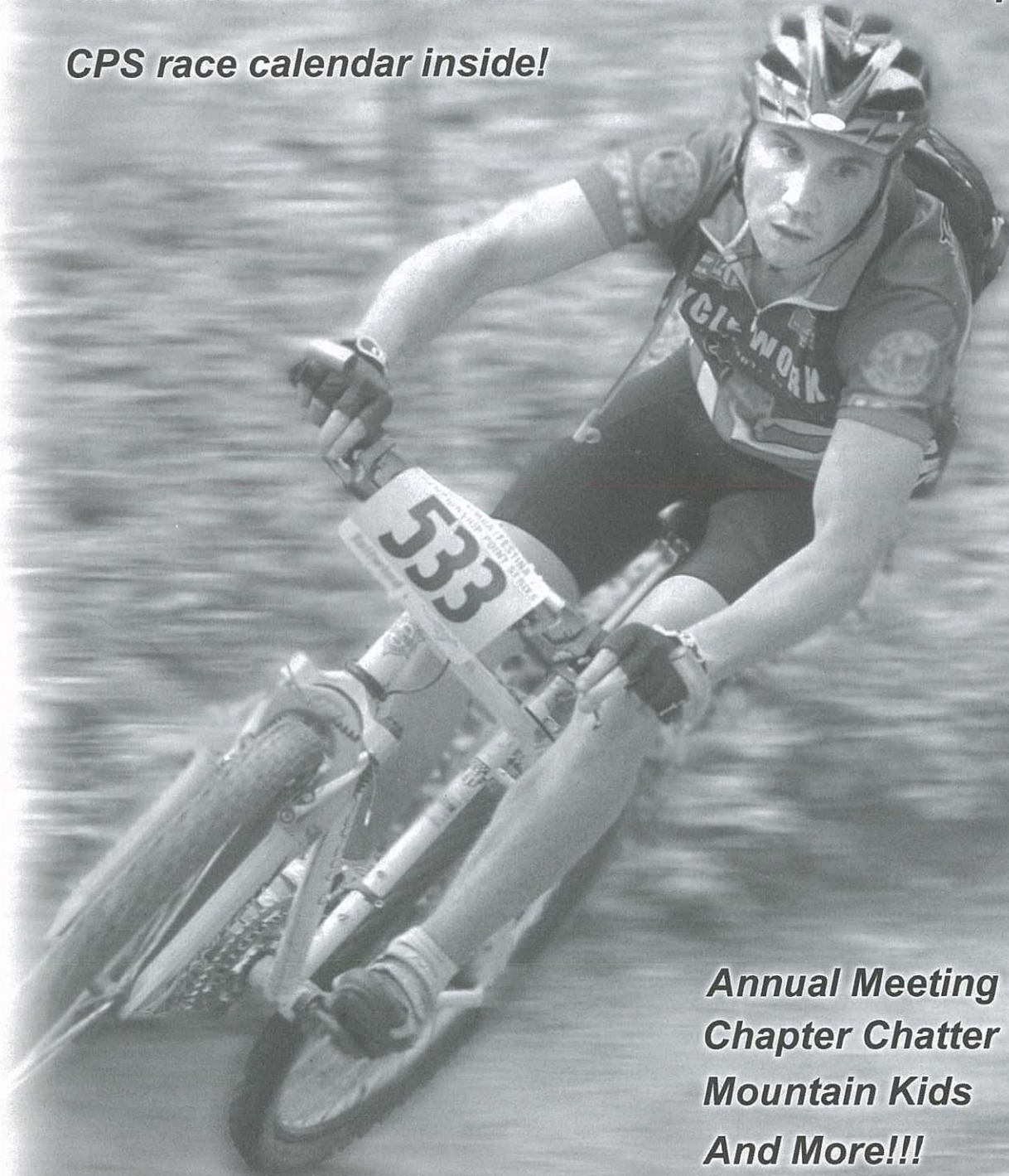


BENT RIM BUGLE



The official newsletter of the MMBA - Issue #59 - Spring 2002

CPS race calendar inside!



*Annual Meeting Wrap-up
Chapter Chatter
Mountain Kids
And More!!!*

The ABC's of Safety: Air bags. Buckle up. Children in back. Outback L.L.Bean Edition shown with optional equipment. Subaru is proud to be associated with the International Mountain Bicycling Association.



OUTBACK



IT FORGES ITS OWN PATH. JUST LIKE YOU.

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for people who are into coasting. It's for you.



The Beauty of All-Wheel Drive.

The Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA) is a 501-(C)(3) non-profit organization. We have 1,600 members in nine chapters throughout Michigan. The mission of the MMBA is to promote responsible mountain biking and to work toward the goals of common land access and natural resource protection through interaction with policy makers, the cycling industry, race promoters, mountain bikers and other trail users.

The Bent Rim Bugle is a quarterly publication of the
Michigan Mountain Biking Association
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Visit the MMBA on the web, **new and improved site**, at www.mmba.org for contact information and much more.

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Cover photo & design by Bryan Mitchell

T O D D S C O T T

The Prez SeZ



From the Prez

Spring Thaw Conditions – We strongly urge you to avoid riding the trails during the spring thaw period. Water from the melting snow cannot pass through the frozen ground, so it puddles on the trail surface. Tire ruts help channel this water and cause erosion. The rule of thumb is the ground has thawed when the earthworms come out.

If you want to ride and unsure of the trail conditions what should you do? My suggestion is to call the park or check the MMBA bulletin board (www.mmba.org). If you don't get an answer from these sources, make two plans: one for the trail and one for nearby paved or dirt roads. If you get to the trail and find it muddy, switch to the road plan. If you're unsure, practice abstinence. Waiting a week or two for the conditions to improve isn't the end of the world. It may help save the trails and your equipment.

Of course another option is to ride when everything is frozen solid, typically in the early morning hours, but be watchful of icy spots.

Annual Meeting and Expo – Thanks to everyone who helped make this event perhaps the best one yet! The enthusiasm was contagious and we're looking to continue that momentum through the year. We'd especially thank Matt Kowalczyk for bringing so many exhibitors to the event.

Life without an Executive Director – As you may have heard, Roger Dyjak is no longer the MMBA Executive Director. At this time, the executive director tasks have been distributed amongst volunteers, which is certainly a short-term fix. The board is discussing various long-term options.

IMBA Summit – Moab, Utah is the meeting place for a huge "unprecedented" mountain bike advocacy summit. Dan Harrison and myself are attending and possibly someone from the Northern Chapter. We're looking to get advocacy and organizational ideas from other clubs around the world. We may find a long-term solution to the executive director vacancy.

The Gandhi Policy – There's no shortage of emails and posts stating what changes the MMBA needs to make and that's fine. Many are operational changes, which don't require much extra effort. However, others require more work from our volunteers. In those circumstances, I see my role as a facilitator, to encourage those wanting the change to make the change. To give them the necessary tools, contacts, and resources to get the job done. To paraphrase Gandhi, "Be the change you wish to see in the MMBA."



"Behind The Scenes"

2002 Annual Meeting Big Success

Many records were broken at the recent 2002 Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA) Annual Meeting and Expo, including those for attendance, new memberships, exhibitor floor space, swap participants, and merchandise sales.

"We had high expectations and we exceeded them," said Todd Scott, MMBA President. "We've received nothing but positive feedback from attendees and exhibitors stating that this was our best meeting yet. We thank all those who helped make this event special."

"I was blown away by the enthusiasm and turnout at the event," said Nancy Krupiarz, Executive Director for the Michigan Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.

At the meeting, the MMBA State Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Karen Millar for all her volunteer efforts with our Mountain Kids program, women's mountain biking clinics, and newsletter publishing. "I saw an opportunity to expand the scope of the MMBA - to include more women, families, kids, and casual bikers - and it has been an incredible ride," said Karen.

Lost & Found

A gray men's medium sized winter jacket was left at the MMBA Annual Meeting. If this is yours, please contact Todd Scott, (248) 288-3753, president@mmba.org.

MMBA Website New & Improved!

The Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA) website now features an on-line interactive calendar dedicated to trail events and cycling advocacy. www.mmba.org. You're invited to add your events. I've attached a Word document with directions and guidelines.

Our goal is become Michigan's definitive source for:

- ** MMBA events and activities
- ** Trail work days
- ** Cycling advocacy events
- ** Trail-related events (including racing)

We hope this results in greater participation and a cross-pollination among various trail users.

If you have questions or comments, contact me.

Marketing the MMBA

This semester, a senior-level marketing class at Central Michigan University is developing marketing strategies for the MMBA. Goals include increasing membership, participation, and recognition.

Last Tuesday, Danielle Dennett, Terry Ritter, and myself gave the class a presentation on the MMBA. We even brought up the web site to show them what we already had.

Also, during the previous semester, graduate student Barry Tiedeman did some marketing research on the MMBA, including an Internet survey. That information was given to the marketing class to help get them started.

As summer rolls through, don't be surprised if you notice some new changes as a result of this exciting partnership.

Training Bible.com member discounts

MMBA members have a special code that you can enter into the "promotion code" box at the top of the checkout page when you sign up for the service. Just enter "mmba" all lower case when you go to pay and your payment will be adjusted as follows:

12-month \$79

6-month \$49

3-month \$29

Editors Note: Bryan Mitchell has been using Training Bible. com for 3 months and has found it very useful in planning workouts and keeping track of his training.

Specialized Youth Cycling Point Series

Kids Race Sports Development Inc., as part of its Michigan Youth Cycling Program (www.youthcycling.com) is proud to Announce the "Specialized Youth cycling Point Series" and the "Specialized Kids Race" Program.

In conjunction with the Michigan Mountain Bike Association Championship Point Series we have formed the Specialized Youth cycling Point Series and will be giving away 2 Specialized Race Bikes, one each to the winner of the 2002 CPS Champion in the Sport Men 15-18 and Sport Women 15-18 classes! MYCA will also be giving Specialized Accessory kits to the winners of the Sport Men 14 & Under and Sport Women 14 & under.

At each of the MMBA CPS races we will also be giving away a Kids Bike in the Specialized Kids Race, names of all the participants in each race will be collected and a winner will be randomly drawn. Kids Bikes will also be given away at selected non - CPS Tailwinds Events. Kids Race Sports Development Inc., a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation, is developing the Michigan Youth Cycling Program, a program to develop cycling among both the racing and general community. The Michigan Youth Cycling Program is the proud organizer of the Specialized Kids Race Team. A Jr. under 23 team that is the Official Grassroots Team for Specialized in Michigan. Please visit <http://www.youthcycling.com> and <http://www.specialized.com>



Annual Meeting Wrap-up

By Jay Jones:

The day started like any other day, stumble to the coffee maker, pour in the water, measure the coffee and hit the switch. Walk outside to get the paper and then go to my son's room to make sure he is covered up and not freezing. After that, it was all different. I needed to take inventory of the bike parts I was going to sell at the Swap Meet. As I went through a few more boxes of bike things, I realize it's hard to part with parts. But it's for a good cause...my wallet. Actually, I don't wear a wallet, but you get the general idea. So with pretty much everything labeled I begin to load the truck. With all the preliminaries out of the way, Dakota and I were ready to go.

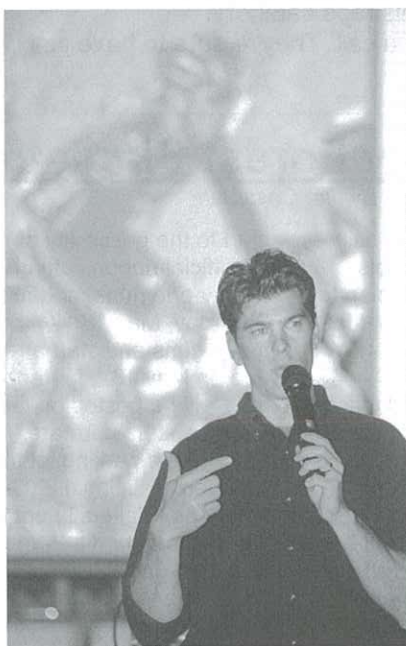
Upon my arrival at the Springfield Oaks Center, I am amazed at the number of cars in the parking lot, but the real surprise was when I walked into the area of the swap and saw more people than ever. Each year this swap grows and this year it took a quantum leap forward in attendance. Bad for me, good for you...Joe Consumer. As I scramble to find some table space I run into some familiar faces so my effort is somewhat delayed, but it's good to see old friends. As I settle down at a table (scammed from a nice gentleman who wasn't using his whole table) I lay out all the goods. It's hard to determine what your stuff is worth. It's always worth more to you than anyone else, but this is quite possibly the best place to purchase used bike parts and some new parts. With the swap meet winding down, and the other aspects of the meeting winding up, it was time to put everything back in the truck and partake of some of the other finer things of the Annual Meeting.

This year the booths at the meeting followed suit with the swap meet as being bigger and better than ever. There was some very cool bike shops, bike clubs, DNR, bike equipment manufacturers and bike companies and, of course, Robert with his indoor race booth. While I spent most of my time at the swap meet it was hard for me to venture into the main hall and check out every display booth. But the booths I did manage to see were first rate and everyone of them had super nice people at them.

Two of the biggest reasons people come to the annual meeting, besides free schwag at the booths, are the guest speakers and the awards for all the volunteer work and racing.

First on the agenda was guest speaker number one. Todd Mercer has some of you readers' dream job. Todd drives to various locations with his wife and they sample singletrack and homebrews. While I don't partake in any alcoholic beverages, the sampling of singletrack throughout the United States was quite appealing. He presented a slide show of various riding and brewing locations which, in my opinion, was very good.

The second special guest speaker was Frankie Andrieu from the U.S. Postal Service Professional Cycling Team. Yes, this is the



Photos by Bryan Mitchell (www.mountainbikemichigan.com)



same U.S.P.S. team that 3 time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong is on. No matter what team Lance has been on, he has taken Frankie with him. Frankie is what you would call in the professional cycling racing circles as a lieu-

tenant. He is one of Lances right hand men. Frankie has finished 9 Tours, a phenomenal feat in itself. He is a home boy and he still resides in his hometown of Dearborn, Michigan, when not on the pro cycling tour. He also presented a slide show that was very interesting and entertaining.

Next up was the volunteer awards. I believe these people are what makes the MMBA. Without these kind hearted souls, we would not have trails to ride on, so when they received their awards I clapped a little harder. With much hard work throughout the year with the Mountain Kids program, co-editor of this newsletter, Women on Wheels and various other things Karen Millar won the Volunteer of the Year award. But I do have to mention Robin Scurr. If you

could give this award out to two people, he would get one also. So a big thanks to all of the volunteers and, please, keep up the good work.

The last item on the agenda was the racing awards. These people, who devote time and energy to training and racing, are given very nice Plexiglas awards. There were many categories, as you well know, with up to three people in each category receiving an award. I am a racer and I know it takes time to train. It's hard to juggle family and training, so the people who have family commitments and won an award, my hat goes off to you and most of all, to your family. It takes an understanding lot to deal with our demanding schedules, so congratulations to you and your families. Actually there was one thing left and most people stayed for that...the free give aways. Thanks to all who scammed schwag from various bike companies to be given away at the meeting. Although I wasn't lucky that day, I understand there was some very nice prizes.

To all who made this event a shining moment in the MMBA analogs; This was by far the best meeting ever and we owe it to you!

"FEATURED SHOP" >>>> ANTOON'S BIKE SHOP

Matt Kowalczyk

When Belgian native Antoon Huyghe bought his first road bike, he probably didn't foresee where his bicycle-racing dream might lead. From the humble beginnings of one man, one bike, and one dream arose the first Antoon's Bicycle Shop, on Eight Mile Road in Detroit. The business was successful from the start, and a series of expansions eventually led to the establishment of the current 4800 square foot store in Sterling Heights.

Visitors to the current Antoon's shop will find nearly one hundred bikes and numerous racks of clothing and bike accessories on display. Mountain bike offerings include Bianchi, Fisher, GT, and Litespeed. A generous amount of floor space is also dedicated to skateboards, snowboards, and Haro and Mongoose bmx bikes for the baggy pants crowd. Antoon's most interesting feature is the highly visible work area, set up right behind the front counter. It's possible to watch four bikes being wrenched on simultaneously and get expert advice from the friendly mechanics, as one browses through the store. Community involvement is a key ingredient for a successful bike shop business. In keeping with this business philosophy, Antoon's staff conducts bicycle safety clinics at local elementary schools and helps to promote the Leukemia Society, the MS 150, and the National Mountain Bike Patrol. Says Huyghe, "When they call, if it's a reasonable request, we'll try to get involved." On a personal level, Huyghe supports a cycling team and serves as president of the Cadieux Bicycle Club. In addition, the athletic 70 year-old shop owner maintains a daily regimen of training, logged over 6,000 miles last year, and won the 2001 national title in his race category.

If you're on the east side, give Antoon's Bike Shop a call. They're sure to have just what you're looking for!

Midland City Forest Singletrack

By Jim Crissman

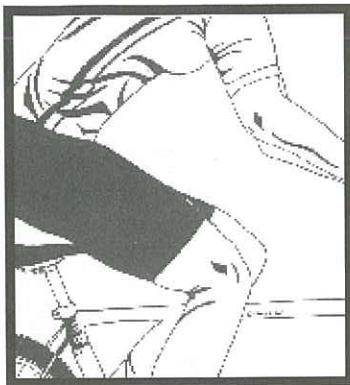
Midland has eight miles of new singletrack designed and built by mountain bikers at the Midland City Forest. City officials granted a small local group of two-wheel fanatics permission to make the trail after a meeting there on September 10th, last fall. The next day, the one etched in everyone's mind, I left work right after the Pentagon got hit and spent the day rough pruning and pink flagging a route through the woods, and trying to forget. It became a compulsion, and with the organizational and baking help of Gussie Peterson, numerous cookie-powered work parties spanned the fall and continued right through this miserable excuse for a winter. A dozen or more hearty souls contributed their time and muscle to the effort, and Sears replaced for free two pairs of loping shears worn out in the process. Thus, we've finished two loops, one north and one south of Newell Creek, the waterway that slowly bisects the park. Currently, the loops are joined only at a wide central bridge that is part of the extensive system of 2-track trails, but the city has promised to build two new narrow bridges to connect the loops at their most easterly and westerly parts. When they are finished, you'll be able to ride the trail as one large loop, just the north or south loop, or join the two creek side sections into a most challenging route.

The park is a mixture of wetland and low ridges, ancient sand bars from when this was the bottom of the lake, populated by mature pines and mixed hardwoods. Many years ago, the creek was dredged to help drain the farmland north of town. As a result, dredging ridges, dug from the clay of the old creek bottom, now form steep banks, often 10-12 feet above the water. The creek-side sections of the trail frequently swoop down from the natural edge of the creek valley and up onto these dredging ridges. As many times as you swoop down, you get a short steep climb out. The clay of these ridges can get pretty greasy when wet, so we are currently top dressing the slimiest sections with wood chips. The trail also makes good use of the elevation changes along the sandy ridges, snaking up and down as much as possible. The singletrack crosses the 2-track trail system many times—you need to be

alert to the possibility of horses at these intersections.

An official ribbon cutting, with dignitaries, Blue Angel fly-over, twenty-one guns, and full dress spandex is planned for Saturday, May 18th—no other details yet. However, we'll jump those guns and start a regular Thursday evening (6 PM) group ride on May 16th, for those who like to share the experience. A map will be posted on the MMBA website, NE region, soon. In the meantime here are a few clues:

1. From the parking lot trail gate, take the first west-bound trail, a wide, pre-existing, lit XC-ski trail. It's the trail closest to the double gates. Take all right forks, staying near Monroe road, until you come out on a 2-track near Trail Marker #6. Turn right.
2. Follow the 2-track a short distance west to TM 7 and fork right again onto another fast section of preexisting singletrack. Follow that trail almost to Monroe road, until you see a left fork, marked by blue dots and arrows, which, if you stay on it, will circle you back to the same trail. However, fifty yards before rejoining the old trail, the new singletrack breaks off to the right, and eventually connects to the 2-track, which we'll use to get you through another wet spot. Turn right.
3. Follow the 2-track west 100 yards or so, then make a sharp left onto a singletrack on the low ridge at the west end of the wetland. About 150 yards down the trail, you'll have a choice: go around the big fallen oak or take the ramp over it. This may be a Kodak moment. Continue down the trail another 100 yards or so, cross a wide trail and continue under several big white pines onto new single track. When you eventually reach the west bridge turn-off, either turn right to take the bridge to the south loop, or continue creek-side on the north loop.
4. If you cross to the south side of the creek, you'll climb out of the creek valley and see where the south creek-side trail comes in from the left. Continue straight, cross the 2-track, and enjoy a long ride around the south loop. When you reach the steep drop down to the east bridge, you can turn left on the dredging ridge for the challenging south creek-side trail, or cross Newell Creek and bear right for the trail home. The singletrack ends at the backside of the sliding hill. Climb the hill, swoosh back to the parking lot, rehydrate, refuel, and do it again!



Women and Bikes

(we might surprise you!)

Not Like Other Girls

By: Steffie Fiore

We're not like the other girls. Our fingernails are ever rough and rugged, our hands aching, perhaps from pushing steel beading into the rims of our wheels of our bikes, which sit in our bedrooms; these bikes which scream down the trails which we've built with those same hands. The hands that can be ever gentle as the next, but with decorative accents of thorn scratches, glove tan lines, and Gripshift blisters. Our hair has found it's own configuration inside our helmets and for this, we own a considerable collection of cute hats.

When we pull our rigs into the parking lot after an adventure on a hot day, we remove our helmets and for some, stringy sweaty hair falls limp to our shoulders. Sometimes we may tip our helmet to the side and let the sweat run out, into tiny neat puddles onto the pavement, and a certain satisfaction is gained because at that moment, we are not like the other girls.

We are not like the other girls when we go over the bars, when the world spins crazily and we reconnect with the earth on the backs of our heads. When we slide into trees, jump over logs, negotiate that sketchy

down, and run our bikes over a water crossing, we are most assuredly our own rare breed.

When we pull our girlfriends up, use our water to clean their bloody elbows, and band together in the parking lot to protect ourselves from the omnipresent optical appreciation of the males nearby, we are not like the other girls.

We change our own flats, repair our own chains, and wrench the thorns out of our skin ourselves.

We bear the scrutiny of the women in our workplace, in our classes, in our families, who question, chastise, doubt, pass judgment, and simply do not understand. We have the admiration of many more men and women who appreciate our passion, our intensity, and our spirit. We are each a hundred feet tall when covered in mud, with leaves in our hair, and bloody singletrack on our legs. We are each stunning in a red dress.

We are typhoons of furious femininity. Mountain biking is

Photos by Bryan Mitchell (www.mountainbikemichigan.com)

our escape and our solitude; it's the scars on our elbows and the wind in our hair. It's the spring in our step, the



*"Let me tell you what I think of bicycling. I think it has done more to emancipate women than anything else in the world. It gives women a feeling of freedom and self-reliance. I stand and rejoice every time I see a woman ride by on a wheel...the picture of free, untrammelled womanhood."--
Susan B. Anthony*



And the
Outdoors-
Woman

And the



Proudly present the second annual Beyond BOW

WOMEN'S MOUNTAIN BIKING SYMPOSIUM



MAY 18, 2002, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

STONY CREEK METROPARK

SKILLS CLINICS – geared for the brand new beginner, novice and intermediate rider. Learn how to ride trails; weight distribution on climbs and descents, braking and cornering. Learn to ride over logs and even bunny hop!

PURCHASING and FITTING – Demo different kinds of bikes and learn about each. Learn how to fit your bike properly and what to look for when purchasing a bike and accessories – what is necessary and what is recommended. Fit and adjust helmets and learn about women's specific cycling clothes.

(sponsored by Kinetic Systems, Clarkston)

INTRO TO RACING – find out what beginning racing is all about. Everyone begins with a first race, learn what to expect. What will you find when you get to a race? Who are these women who race? Learn about pre-race nutrition and some basic training suggestions. Yes! You can do it!

MAINTENANCE CLINIC –

Learn basic trail repair – fix a flat tire and a broken chain, the two most common problems on the trail. Find out how to clean and lube your bike properly.



Photos by Bryan Mitchell

*Rain or Shine or
Snow (well you
never know)*

**COST OF SYMPOSIUM IS
\$20.00**

Please make check payable to Michigan DNR –
Becoming an Outdoors-Woman

**REGISTRATION
DEADLINE:
MAY 1, 2002**

Limited to 60 participants

- Participants will be getting dirty and will be riding. Please dress accordingly. Seminar will go rain or shine.
- Participants will need to bring a sack lunch. Bagels and juice will be provided in the morning and snacks and water throughout the day.
- Participants need to provide their own bike.

REGISTRATION

NAME _____ Date _____
 ADDRESS _____
 PHONE _____ E-MAIL: _____

All participants will participate in the skills clinics. Time limits you to a selection of two sessions. Choose the two sessions you would most like to attend.

Maintenance _____ Purchasing and Fitting _____ Intro to racing _____

Mail registration and check to: DNR, Attn: Lynn Marla, B.O.W. Coordinator, P.O. Box 30711, Lansing MI 48909

Any Questions? Contact Lynn Marla: Marlal@state.mi.us (517)241-2225, or Karen Millar: kmma2@hotmail.com (734)741-0275

Please initial each section below and sign at the bottom.

_____ I realize that the B.O.W./ MMBA Mountain Bike Symposium (the "Program") requires physical conditioning. I am in sound medical condition and have no physical or medical condition that could endanger others or myself.

_____ I understand that bicycling can be a HAZARDOUS activity that has many dangers and risks, including injury or death resulting from accident or physical exertion. I agree to freely and expressly assume and accept any and all risks of injury or death, including injury, death, loss or damage attributable to the negligence of the sponsors and promoters of the Program, including the MMBA, the DNR and other sponsors or affiliated organizations, and their respective agents, directors, officers, employees and volunteers.

_____ I agree to release the MMBA and the DNR from any and all responsibility or liability for injuries or damages that result, either directly or otherwise, from my participation in the Program. I agree not to make a claim against or file suit against the MMBA, the DNR or other sponsors or affiliated organizations for injuries or damages to me relating to the Program.

_____ If I become ill or injured I consent to and authorize the provision of emergency first aid or medical treatment on my behalf.

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE AND FULLY UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO ITS CONTENTS.

Name of participant _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Ed Berta First Across the Finish Line Awards at the Annual Meeting

Karen Millar 2001 Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations to **Karen Millar** the 2001 winner of the State Volunteer of the Year, Robert Hurley gave the following speech at the Annual meeting:

"Now it is time to announce this year's MMBA Volunteer of the Year. First I would like to recognize the two runners up.

Robin Scurr, who as our Membership Secretary has most likely put in more volunteer hours than anyone at one of the most important positions, and Tim Collins the father of the Pontiac Lake re-birth who also has dedicated countless volunteer hours. Both Robin and Tim are certainly deserving of this award.

But, the board voted and this year's winner also is very deserving. She has taken over as one of the Editors of the Bent Room Bugle and turned it into great newsletter, at a time when the newsletter needed her the most. Additionally, she has taken the reigns of the Mtn Kids Program and turned it into a first rate program for at risk children. Also, she has organized mountain biking workshops for women to train them on bike maintenance and riding skills. I don't have time to list everything. Please help me recognize a true asset to our organization Karen Millar."

Karen was present with a green Patagonia fleece with her name embroidered on the arm, the FAFL logo embroidered on the chest and the Mtn. Kids Logo embroidered one the back. Additionally she was awarded with a glass plaque etched with the Ed Berta FAFL logo.



Photo by Bryan Mitchell (www.mountainbikemichigan.com)

Ed Berta FAFL Program Results for 2001

The table below shows 2001 results for the Ed Berta FAFL Program.

Chapter	Vols w/ 10+ Hrs	Total Hrs	Chapter Volunteer of the Year
Western	14	474.5	Tony & Matt Stachowiak
Pontiac Lake	59	1803	Robert Linden
Mid-State	15	477	Harve Seeley
Northeast	5	188	Jim Crissman
Southeast	29	1343	Lynda Racey, Scott Silvers & Brian Smith
Southwest	22	1026	Brianna McIntoch
Holly/Flint	25	606	Mark Weingartz
Northern	8	893	Larry Heath
Potawatomi	19	543	Dick Keller
Totals=>	196	7353.5	

All volunteers with 10 hours or more received a stainless steel copper color travel mug with the program logo. The Chapter's Volunteer of the Year received a glass plaque with the program logo etched on it, along with the travel mug and pint glass. Total hours logged for 2001 an impressive 7353.5. Thanks to all the volunteers who made Michigan trails open, safe and fun.

MOUNTAIN KIDS CORNER



And we're off... another season of Mountain Kids, and hopefully our best season yet! This time of year is spent making contact with organizations, schools and parks and recreation programs to find participants. I am hoping, this year, to get inner city kids involved in our program. I am also hoping to expand the scope of mountain kids to include education and awareness beyond our regular events. One of the ideas I am looking at is a day long Family Fun Festival for kids and their parents. More on that later! I am looking forward to another successful year!

Karen Millar—Mountain Kids Program Director.

Wanted:

A person, or two, to take the "position" of Assistant Director. I am out of town for most of the summer and would like to train someone to run events in my absence. If you are interested, drop an email to:

mountainkids@mmba.org.

Happenings

I would like to say how much I appreciate the award of State Wide Volunteer of the Year. This was due in large part to my efforts in the Mountain Kids program. I feel it is important to acknowledge all the volunteers that make this program possible. I can't do what I do without being able to depend on the self-less people who come out to help me. It is truly appreciated!

A special thanks, once again, to Tom Klinkman. Not only does he store and tow the trailer to the events he has taken it upon himself to install quick release set-ups on the seats. This is a HUGE help! THANKS, TOM!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Photo by Mike Strozski

Pam Tumbarella

Age: 41

Occupation:

**Development
testing engines
for GM**

Bikes: Cannondale
hardtail, Giant road,
KMS back-up bike.

Why I ride: I ride because it's fun and challenging. Riding in the woods is the best time and the people are fun—I like the social aspects of group riding.

Why I volunteer: I enjoy introducing people to the sport. And the kids are great because they are naturally athletic and full of enthusiasm. It's fun to watch the kids take on the challenge, succeed, and gain confidence in the process.

Favorite MK moment: My favorite moment happened at Holdridge with the all girls group. One of the girls was crying and saying she couldn't do it. Her guide was encouraging her and telling her to just try. They were going so slowly that me, and my mountain kid, passed them. I saw them come out of the loop and the girl was going fast, smiling, and yelling at her guide to hurry up! I like to see that sense of accomplishment and confidence that develops in the kids.

For more information, or to schedule an event, contact Karen Millar at kmma2@hotmail.com

2002 FESTINA MMBA Championship Point Series Schedule

4/21/02 #1 Yankee Springs Deep Lake Time Trial

Yankee Springs kicks off the season and it's always giant - one of the largest mountain bike time trials in the U.S. The fun festival atmosphere just adds to the excitement of riding one great Michigan trail. *This is an MMBA Western Chapter trail fundraiser.*

Contact: Tailwind Enterprises, (248) 634-6178.

5/5/02 #2 Fort Custer Stampede

This Fort Custer race near Battle Creek is the first cross country race of the MMBA Series on another classic Michigan trail. The Fort is has many unique and memorable riding sections, making it a favorite destination for mountain bikers of all levels. *This is an MMBA South-west Chapter trail fundraiser.*

Contact: Tailwind Enterprises, (248) 634-6178.

5/19/02 #3 Addison Oaks Spring Classic

In years past, this early season Addison Oaks race was notoriously muddy. Through much hard trail work, the MMBA and County Parks have helped make this early race a true gem, and look for continued improvements. Racers and spectators will appreciate the modern, clean facilities. The park is located about 9 miles north of Rochester. The start wave times are typically 11am for beginners and 1pm for everyone else.

Contact: Oakland County Parks, 2800 Watkins Lake Road Waterford, MI 48328-1917, (248) 693-2432.

6/15/2002 & 6/16/02 #4 Whiskey Creek Stage Race

The series returns to Whiskey Creek near Ludington for a two-day stage race, which includes time trial, dirt crit, and cross country racing. Only Sunday's race counts in the series. Other non-competitive events are planned for the festival weekend. Expect this event to draw a large gathering of mountain bike folks. Call (616) 898-2030 for camping options.

Contact: Tailwind Enterprises, (248) 634-6178.



Photo by Bryan Mitchell (www.mountainbikemichigan.com)

6/30/02 #5 Bloomer Park

The technical riders and locals flock to the Bloomer Park race in Rochester Hills. Spectators love to watch riders navigate the switchbacks. The course routing is always just a bit different from the last time and always challenging. No on-site camping.

Contact: Tailwind Enterprises, (248) 634-6178.

7/13/02 #6 Stony Creek Time Trial

This time trial is a mix of fast fire roads and smooth flowing singletrack with a boardwalk and stream crossings thrown in. This race is a solid warm-up for the XTERRA off road triathlon and duathlon on the next day. This race is also a good place for first-time racers to get into the sport. No on-site camping. This is a Saturday race!

Contact: Tailwind Enterprises, (248) 634-6178.



Photo by Bryan Mitchell (www.mountainbikemichigan.com)



7/21/02 #7 Ruby Campground Cross Country

The Ruby Campground course near Port Huron has blossomed over the years and is now one of the favorites on the circuit. The hills are technical whether you're going up them or down. The river crossings are also tough but a favorite hangout for the cheering spectators.

Call (810) 324-2766 for on-site camping options.

Contact: Tailwind Enterprises, (248) 634-6178.

8/4/02 #8 Big M Cross Country

Big M XC - Manistee

Contact: Tailwind Enterprises, (248) 634-6178.

8/25/02 #9 Duane Chambers Memorial Time Trial at Fort Custer

This race is the last of the three time trials in the Festina/MMBA series. This is another excellent choice for first-time racers. *This is an MMBA Southwest Chapter trail fundraiser.*

Contact: Tailwind Enterprises, (248) 634-6178.

9/8/02 #10 Stony Creek Cross Country

The series revisits Stony Creek for a cross-country race!

No on-site camping.

Contact: Tailwind Enterprises, (248) 634-6178.



Photo by Bryan Mitchell (www.mountainbikemichigan.com)

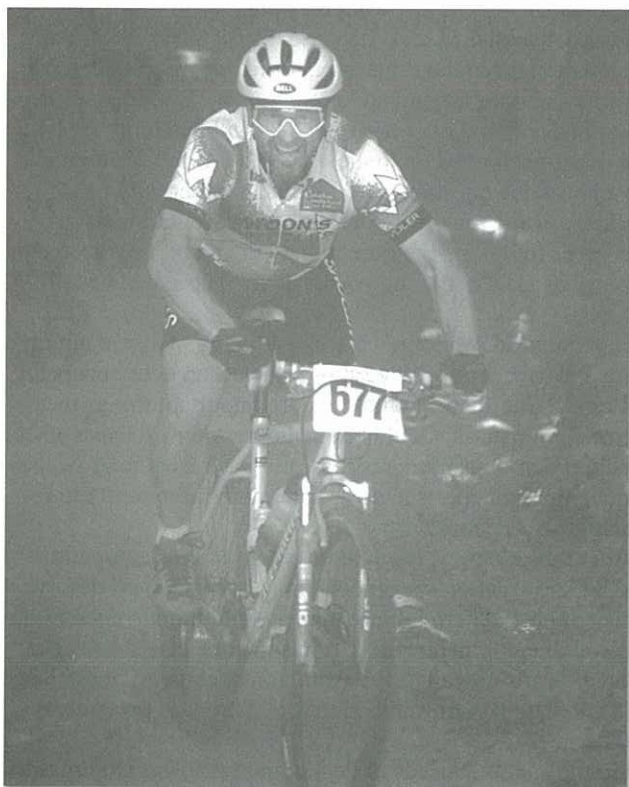


Photo by Bryan Mitchell (www.mountainbikemichigan.com)

9/15/02 #11 Addison Oaks Fall Classic

This fast and open course north of Rochester tends to keep groups racing in packs like a road race. And like road racing, tactics can play a part in this race. Can you stay on the leader's wheel? Can you beat the pack to the technical singletrack and make some time on them? Show up and find out.

Contact: Oakland County Parks, 2800 Watkins Lake Road Waterford, MI 48328-1917, (248) 693-2432.

9/29/02 #12 Aspen Park Cross Country

The final race in the series is located in Gaylord! The **Aspen Park Singletrack** is located in a rolling 100 acre park that winds through stands of pine, hemlock and live beaver colonies. Watch out for fallen trees! This is going to be a fast course along with hill climbs and switchbacks.

Directions to the trail: Take I-75 exit 279, go north on Old 27 past first traffic light about a mile up. Look for Commerce Rd, on the right. There are two banks on each corner of the street. Turn right and follow road to the end. The parking lot is at the end of the road.

Note that the race may be staged at the nearby middle school. To get to the school, follow I-75 exit 282 (the north Gaylord exit) and head east (right) towards town. Go through town. At the very edge of town turn right on Maple Street. Follow around curve, the school is on the right and very easy to spot.

Contact: Tailwind Enterprises, (248) 634-6178.





Racing News

We've all been there, but often don't want to admit it. You're pushing the big ring and the wheel in front of you wants to disappear as you struggle to concentrate on the task of staying closely behind it. The pain creeps higher into your state of consciousness and you are slowly approaching the threshold where your body tells your mind, "Okay, that's enough". But, maybe the person in front is approaching the same point, and will lighten up just a little. Then you can stay with them. As you persist in your living hell, a form appears suddenly up ahead. The wheel you hoped to stay on shoots around and disappears quickly into the tight single track. You are now stuck behind a slower racer, each second diminishing your chances to contend...and the rage begins. Without even a thought the regrettable words jump out of your mouth and you have now shown your other side.

What was the focus of this sudden emotional outburst? Could be that rider you always catch in the first 10 minutes, who should have known to let you by. Or, maybe it is the Beginner who is trying their first Sport race and didn't hear you coming. Possibly a rider the lead racer trains with all the time and they used this situation to their advantage. Then again it could have been the mother of two who is trying her hardest to give this sport a try. At the moment it just doesn't matter, does it? And what have you done with this act? Told someone something that you are sure they know but didn't care about...or made another racer feel they don't deserve the same level of respect you expect?

Everyone pays the same to race. That is the only thing a promoter requires to put a number plate on a bike and let someone go out and share the experience so many of us enjoy. And that is all that we should think about, that the rider in question deserves to be there just like us. Yet, this is often not the case.

Conflict between racers is part of the sport. When one is pushing themselves to the outer boundaries of the pain experience found in competition, it often doesn't take much exterior involvement and you find yourself over the edge, visiting that world of unexplained responses. This is often the racer's reasoning for these actions, that the situation brought it out. But, do rational thoughts really manifest themselves in disrespectful comments that are so often heard? Does it make it acceptable that we are in "competition" when we say or think these things? I guess the real question is, should it?

When examining this issue, it is prudent to view both the positives and the negatives. What do we gain, and what can we lose? On the plus side, it sure feels good to direct our anger towards something. Sure, we should have been paying attention to the course and the approaching bottle neck our fellow classmate exploited to gain an advantage. Do I take that responsi-

bility? Why when I can focus it elsewhere? So what if the targeted racer has no idea that they did anything wrong. You're angry and in competition, so it's acceptable, right?

Let's look at the negatives. What does that person who was the center of your onslaught think? Does it really matter? I mean, they don't look fast or very serious, this can't be as important to them as it is to you. They'll understand, won't they. Well, if you are lucky they will buy into the whole competition thing and understand. But that is probably too much to ask. After all, since you demonstrated so little, they would have to have the wisdom of two. That is a lot to expect from most people.

What is most likely to happen is that they look at the situation as unacceptable. They were doing nothing wrong but trying to enjoy the same thing you do, just not as quickly. They're paying the same price as you, having the same right to be there as you. And, for that they get looked down on, possibly screamed at, or even peppered with vulgarities. "For what?", they will think. No one is living or dying by losing ten feet in a 25 mile race. I'm sure they don't think the pass you missed will prevent you from being able to feed your offspring. In the end you lost something that you may want later: Their respect.

I remember a situation that occurred a few years back. Whether we like it or not, if we are fast, and someone strives to be like us (and don't we all want to be faster?), then we will be looked up to in their eyes. I felt the same way towards this very fast and very young racer. One day I got the chance to talk to him and was floored. He mumbled and was shy, and just talked nothing but gibberish...just like a teenager would. This seemed strange till I thought of something. He was a teenager. I had painted this picture because of all the respect I had for his riding and didn't realize he was just what they are.

Why this anecdotal recall? Because, like it or not, if you are fast you are thought of the same way. Sure, we may just want to race our bikes and not be anyone's role model. But, it is never that easy. I have found over the years that as I had a little success, some people looked up to me...people I didn't even know. They would ask me questions and I would wonder why they cared to know something from me, then they would thank an "Expert" racer for taking the time to help them and I realized they felt the same as I did about the young rider. Those can be tall shoes to fill.

When it comes down to it, we are just racing. Oh, we put time in to train and such, and a little bit of us is left on every course if we do it right. But, there should be more important things than what place we finish. It should be the impression we leave other riders with. Each of us has a responsibility as racers to grow the sport through proper sportsmanship, but more importantly to respect each other as people.

Whether it be a newer, less skilled rider, a faster competitor who should know better, or someone in between, we all deserve the respect of each other. I doubt many would think someone would be out there to deliberately ruin someone else's day. No, when cooler heads prevailed, we would most certainly think that, though the situation wasn't ideal for you, there was probably no intent to harm.

And in the end, that needs to be the first response. Every rider owes it to themselves to display proper conduct on the course. It is healthy for the sport, for the soul, and for the bond that brings all of us out to race. - **Terry Ritter - CPS director**

READERS' TIPS

The 2002 riding season is fast upon us. Here are some helpful hints and tips to get you started on your journey. Practical advice for the beginner to advanced rider.

- A drop of crazy glue on a newly cut cable end prevents the ends from fraying.
- When putting on a new tire or replacing a tube, inflate the tire to the max pressure or till you hear a pop or multiple popping of the tire against the rim. This lets you know it is seated properly against the rim. Then, let all the pressure out and fill to your favorite setting. This allows the tube to reposition itself taking the stress off the valve stem. You will never (almost) get a valve stem related flat.
- Silicone spray, or Pam cooking spray keeps the clinging mud to a minimum.
- Clip wet bike shoes to the pedals for the drive home to dry them.
- Always wear gloves when working on your bike.
- After pumping up your tire, don't pull the nozzle off. Put your hands over the tire and push it off. That way when it releases your hand will not hit your hubs or cassette.
- Once you get your seat height where you like it use a Sharpie marker and draw a band around the seat tube collar/seat post.
- When you shift to a middle or big ring, don't forget to up shift or downshift the rear cog one gear to minimize the gap between shifter ratios.
- Always pack some toilet paper in a plastic baggie and keep it in your pack. You never know...
- Keep some sort of ID and contact phone # in your pack in case anything happens.
- Easy bunny hopping: It's scary, but if you allow the front wheel to make contact with the object you are hopping, when the wheel hits you can use the spring rebound of the fork to spring you up into the air – while you are pulling upon the bars and bike. Wait till the last moment to do the bunny hop and you won't believe how high you get. Timing is everything but this is a good technique if you don't have any forward speed.
- Use cheap CVS denture cleaning tablets (two tablets usually) to clean camel back bladders.
- To take pedals off, think to the REAR of the bike is off and to the front is on – for both sides.
- Use 3 tire levers, it is so much easier. Those hooks on the ends loop over the spokes!

- To prevent moisture from getting into the seat tube and bottom bracket cut a piece of old road inner tube and stretch it around the seat tube so that it covers the notch in the collar.
- A slice of old inner tube can also be used like a lizard skin around your headset as well.
- Keep a zip lock bag with misc. screws, nuts, zip ties, razorblade, and small adjustable monkey wrench for those crazy times the traditional bike tools aren't enough.
- When removing the rear wheel it is most efficient to put it in the smallest cog in the rear



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Chapter Chatter

Potawatomi Chapter News

Poto Chapter Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations to Dick Keller the 2001 Potawatomi Chapter Volunteer of the Year. Dick was presented with a glass plaque with the "Ed Berta First Across the Finish Line" logo etched on it. Dick also received a stainless steel copper color travel mug with the same logo. Dick had the following to say about his award:

"I joined the MMBA Poto chapter sometime around 1990. When I saw a meeting notice posted at the Poto, I thought it might be a good way to get involved in mountain bike advocacy, because there was growing concern about land being closed to bikes. I remember going to a meeting in a conference room at Jim Bradley Pontiac. There were a lot of people at the meeting, maybe 30 or so, which was pretty remarkable for any meeting not held in a bar. It must have been the free donuts. I had just bought my first "modern" mountain bike a year earlier. My wife and I rode the entire 18 miles of the Poto on the hottest day of the summer starting out with one water bottle each and no food. It took us 6 hours to finish the ride. Much of the trail was overgrown with vegetation, there were no signs and the only map we had was this fuzzy boy scout map that showed we were probably still somewhere in SE Michigan. We were afraid to take any shortcuts because we knew we'd get lost and end up riding even farther. I decided, after that ride, that I needed to learn more about mountain biking. Since then I've ridden the Poto many times and explored most of the other trails in SE Michigan. I've helped with trail maintenance at the Poto, Island Lake, Brighton, Maybury, Stony Creek, and Waterloo trails. I currently maintain the Poto chapter's events page on the MMBA site. On several occasions, I've helped create totally new trail sections. One of my favorite experiences is being one of the first to "test" ride one of these new sections the day it was cut".

"Thanks Dick for all the years of support," stated Robert Hurley, chapter president.

Chapter Volunteer Award Winners

The following volunteers also received stainless steel copper color travel mugs with the Ed Berta FAFL logo for volunteering 10 hours or more of trail work: Lisa Becks, Stani Bohac, Eric Boxrud, Larry Cavalloro, Karen Erickson, Robert Hurley, Jim James, Jason Aric Jones, Emil Sims, Bernie Smith, Leeanne Weinreich, Ron Weinreich, Dave Welsch, Bob Wolf, Rick Sanborn, Julie White, Scot Douglas, Jim Janowicz

If you have not received your award send a note to (rhurley1@ford.com).

Signs on the Poto

Jon Labossie, Pinckney Rec. Area park manager, stated that the park will be installing signs this year and requested our help. The plan is to place signs at most intersection with a complete map of the park. Each sign will have an indicator of current location.

First Half of Year Chapter Schedule

March-27-7:30 pm-1st Chapter Meeting-Arbor Brewing Company, Ann Arbor, 734-213-1393-"First Meeting of the Year", used to kick-off the new season. Elections will be held, review of this year's schedule of events and agenda setting for this year.

April-18-6:30 pm-Start of Thursday Night Rides-Silver Lake Parking Lot, Pinckney Rec. Area-Start date of "Thursday Night Rides" at the Poto. Meet at 6:15 pm and start riding at 6:30 pm. All riding levels available. Last Thursday of the month ride will be held at Brighton Rec. Area.

4/28-7:00 am-Trail Marathon-Pinckney Rec. Area-STAY OFF TRAIL: Running Fit Trail Marathon all morning

May-4-9:30 am-Brighton Trail Workday-Silver Lake Parking Lot, Pinckney Rec. Area-Work agenda to be set at Chapter meeting

5/12-10:00-Tailwind Time Trial Series Race #2: Brighton Recreation Area-Bishop Lake Parking Lot, Brighton Rec. Area-Need volunteers to help prepare the trail, set-up for the event and act as trail marshals during the race. A portion of race proceeds benefits chapter. To register: www.tailwind.net

5/29-7:30 pm-Chapter Meeting-Arbor Brewing Company, Ann Arbor, 734-213-1393-Review plans for Triple Trail Challenge and plan trail work days

June- 1-3 -NA-Chapter Trip -Sportsman's Port Campground, near Manistee-"Chapter Trip Up North", ride the Big M X-country ski trail system, near Manistee and the famous North Country Trail. We'll drive up Thursday evening and stay at Sportsman's Port Campground.

6/8-9:30 am-Poto Trail Workday-Silver Lake Parking Lot, Pinckney Rec. Area-Prepare for "Triple trail Challenge" work agenda to be set at Chapter meeting

6/15-9:30 am-Triple Trail Challenge-Silver Lake Parking Lot, Pinckney Rec. Area-Ride 40 miles including most of the Poto, Lakeland Rails to Trails and parts of the Waterloo trail. Rain date June 29.

All dates and times are subject to change. Please contact Robert Hurley (248-865-5016/rhurley1@ford.com) for latest information.

Contact Emil Sims (248-336-2108/esims@ford.com) to be placed on e-mail distribution list for Poto chapter Please check the web (www.mmmba.org) for latest details on chapter schedule.

Northern Chapter News

Things up here in the Northern Chapter are quite active with weekly meetings held throughout the area to acquaint riders with the MMBA and what we stand for. Boyne City, Petoskey and, of course, Gaylord and Grayling, are on line as trail areas and have tentative Trail Coordinators in place. We are continually receiving inquiries from places as far away as Houghton and Marquette regarding getting involved in local trails with the MMBA behind their efforts. I anticipate a very successful year for the Northern Chapter

with memberships doubling what we currently have in place. We changed the date and location for our annual meeting. It was originally scheduled for April 7, 2002 in Mackinaw City, however a very unique and exciting opportunity came up at a later date. We are working with Mackinaw Crossings on a bike expo to be held in conjunction with the Tour de Mack event which is held the weekend of June 7, 8 & 9, 2002 in Mackinaw City. Because we are offering our help in rounding up bike companies, and other expo vendors and exhibitors, Mackinaw Crossings has agreed to let us have our chapter annual meeting during this event. The details are still being worked out, however it will prove to be a very fun filled event for the whole family with Mountain Kids, MTB Patrol, IMBA, and others, being represented.

The date for our chapter annual meeting is Sunday June 9 with a ride in the morning followed by a swap meet and the meeting itself. Because Matt K. did such a fine job with the state annual meeting, we felt it smart to follow his format. Also, he has agreed to lend a hand, once again, to the Northern Chapter.

We are still working out trail workdays and other such events so stay tuned to the calendar and bulletin board for all such dates and related information. We do have a firm date for our second annual Shingle Mill Pathway cleanup: The weekend of May 17, 18 & 19, 2002. Last year was a great success for both trail work and an opportunity to camp out and enjoy each other's company in a beautiful setting. Everyone is welcome to attend and work on the trails, ride the trails, and camp out in the Pigeon River Forest. Last but not least, as you are aware, the Glacier Gorge race, promoted by Iceman Promotions, has been cancelled. There has been a replacement venue picked up by Robert Linden from Tailwind Promotions at our very own Aspen Park in Gaylord. This is a perfect location for a race with great amenities such as a school gym for check in and parking, plenty of opportunities for spectators to view the race from several vantage points, as well as a lot of hotel and camping accommodations near by. Additionally, the City of Gaylord, as well as the officials from Otsego County, the Chamber of Commerce and Visitors and Tourism Bureau, are all behind this event and will support it in any way necessary.

If you ever get a chance to get up here and ride, you definitely need to check with the local bike shops for some sweet singletrack to be had. There are, of course, published trails and those trails that are "secrets" for local riders to enjoy. Ride On!

South West Chapter News

Who is to blame? I feel we have been cheated out of our rightful severe winter. On any sunny winter day this season you could hear songbirds and view migratory fowl on open water. It was suggested to me that the birds are here because the weather is mild. I think we're on the crux of revelation here. What if the migratory species bring the warm weather with them? "No wait!" "Don't tune me out" Have you noticed the weather from Texas to the southeast has

been cold and unusually snowy? It could be that the migratory species are to blame. "Yah!" "They never made the scene down there." If we are to return to frozen lakes and deep snow, we must gather our sticks and garbage can lids and form wide ranks to drive these hot blooded creatures south where they belong. We must delay the suffering as long as we can or we shall endure an extra long summer season with the horrible sweat and the insect bites and stings, the poison ivy, sunburn, and did I mention allergies? In winter you are as warm as you dress. In winter if you ignore the snow on your sidewalks it will disappear in spring, leaving you wondering "Where did the white go?" In summer, if you ignore cutting the grass, it will still need cutting. . . . forever. I probably won't be the only one writing for this issue to talk about rider responsibility. It's that time of year. Many trail users pass judgment on their fellow trail users when they witness deep tracks made when trails are muddy. We all want to get out and enjoy our trails as soon as the temperature rises. I am asking you to stay off muddy trails during spring thaw, ride the linear park or rail trail instead. Trails through woods and on hills facing northward will thaw and dry last. Shortcut or bypass these areas. Another technique I use in transitional weather, especially springtime, is to schedule the ride at first light or dusk. Many days you can ride the trails still frozen in the morning when the same trails will be slimy goo by 10:00am. Responsible trail use pays dividends in other ways too. How about the cleanup afterward or undue wear and tear on brakes, wheels, and drive train. I can't imagine anyone who would prefer slipping and sliding on a muddy trail in granny gear, to riding a hard trail surface. How 'bout that annual meeting? Huh? "You couldn't be there?" It was a display worth seeing. There were plenty of bargains in the swap area. There were close to two dozen exhibits. This was the place to meet friends and to make new friends as well. The awards portion went swiftly and if you haven't got your copper clad Ed Berta First across the finish line MMBA insulated mug yet, see your chapter president. The entertainment was great! Frankie's slide show was as colorful as Frankie himself. I thought the brew pub tour looked a little bit suspicious. It looked just a bit extravagant, the new dome tent and the 98 F150. I would have envisioned a truck more like the Clampets of Beverly Hills with a blue tarp pulled over the top.

NEWS BREAK! Tom Owens and I visited T. K. Lawless County Park on February 16th to see the damage and to check on progress. The total damage to the park is not as severe as Fort Custer but may be more difficult to clean up due to the logging activity. Read on. At this time it looks as though all structures and the split rail fencing are repaired. The most damage to the forest is along Monkey Run Rd. and Buck Lake. There is also considerable timber down north of the structures not affecting the mountain bike trail. These are affecting the interpretive trail and the XC ski trails, however, and will also need work. Depending on how the logger removes the logs will ultimately determine the final degree of damage. If you want to see a worst case scenario, visit the Kellogg Forest in Augusta. The skid loaders left ditches and troughs as deep as two feet with tangled boughs and tops everywhere. We visited Scott at

his home in the park to try and firm up a date for trail maintenance. At this time we cannot do that. Too many unknowns. Scott told us the logger will most likely start in early March to remove saw logs. The logger will need 4 to 6 weeks to do this. Steve Barnes will keep abreast of progress and suggest ideas for the master plan to restore the trail. The southwest chapter and volunteers from the four state area will be allowed to work on the cleanup and restoration of the trail at Steve and Roland's direction. Also available for labor are prison trustees and Cass County citizens serving community service sentences. If needed, new trail may be added if portions of the old trail are destroyed. This land is not the property of State of Michigan and is not affected by the moratorium on trail construction. If you would like to be included, send an email to mneedham@mail.tds.net with Lawless Volunteer in the subject line. I shall add you to a group mailing list and post the schedule when it is available. Don't forget to balance your work with a little play!
Mike Needham SW Chapter Pres

Holly/Flint Chapter News

Hats off to all...Chapter Volunteers and state-wide MMBA members for all of your help and assistance with this year's Annual Meeting. No doubt this year's "meeting" was the best to date! Congratulations to Mark Weingartz, on being selected as this year's "Chapter Volunteer of the Year." Mark is one of our Chapter Trail Coordinators, races in the CPS and has attended meetings around the state on behalf of the MMBA. Mark...once again the Chapter, Thanks you! With warmer weather on its way, I'd like to remind each Chapter Member to get and stay involved. This year we will have more trail work days and many other activities. This year's first event will kick-off with the SPRING WARM-UP RIDE and BIKE MAINTENANCE SEMINAR. This will be held at Indian Springs Metro Park, on Saturday, April 27th. 9:30am look for the MMBA Tent. All are welcome! Call Dave Stewart at 248.889.1666 for more info. Check your upcoming newsletter or the web for more Chapter Event info. Members, if you would like to added to the Chapter E-Mail List, please send me your E-Mail Address. This is an easy way to stay current with information from the Chapter and the State. And most importantly...Please keep your membership current. You are the MMBA!

Rick Jerrell
My new E-Mail is: rjerrell1@comcast.net 248.634.7691

Pontiac Lake Chapter News

The Pontiac Lake Chapter and the Pontiac Lake Horsemen's Association have been volunteering with the MDNR to segregate the trail system at Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area. The project started in 1998 with a proposal to separate the horse & bike trails. So far we have completed about 40% of the reroutes and our current objective is to finish the segregation portion of the "Master Plan" by the end of 2002. To achieve this aggressive goal we need volunteers. To lighten the load on our human

friends, this summer we plan to use Toro Dingo's which assist in our bench cutting of the new, sweet singletrack. We have 7 trail days planned: For more info call Trail Coordinator Tim Collins (248) 765-1822, or DNR Ranger, Paul Noyes (248) 666-5401. Please check www.mmba.org for future updates: Work dates are: Sunday April 14 Saturday, May 11 Sunday, June 2 Saturday, July 13 Sunday, August 11 Sunday, September 22 Sunday, October 13

Southeast Chapter News

Bloomer Expansion

It's been a political roller coaster ride! It began over a year ago when we were told the closed landfill would be a golf course – a done deal. State Representative Gosselin and the MMBA put together a lower cost bike/hike/soccer proposal and pitched it to the communities that collectively ran the landfill. Royal Oak and Hazel Park bought in, but the other communities did not with the exception of Troy, who was on the fence.

We had seven MMBA members at a recent Troy City Council meeting where the vote was 4 to 3 in favor of returning \$3.5 million of golf course development money to the communities. It is expected that Royal Oak and Hazel Park support this motion, giving it a majority vote. With the funds returned to the landfill communities, our proposal becomes the number one alternative. A very special thanks goes to those seven members who attended the Troy City Council meeting that went until 1:45AM! According to the Royal Oak City Attorney, that level of dedication showed the City Council how dedicated and serious we are about developing local riding opportunities. Of course this is not a done deal! We need Troy residents to write or email Mayor Matt Pryor (matt@mattpryor.org) to voice their support of the bike paths on the SOCRRA landfill. Rochester Hill's Mayor Pat Somerville (mayorsoffice@rochesterhills.org) has publicly stated that her residents want a golf course on the property. We urge Rochester Hill's residents to politely tell her of your support for more bike trails.

New Commerce Township Trail

We've walked both the Hickory Glen and Maple Glen Parks. We have developed a proposal for trails at the Hickory Glen Park simply because there are more woods and more interesting terrain. This proposal will be given to the Parks and Rec. Commission in early March. If approved, we could begin developing this trail by this spring.

New Monroe Trail

The MMBA is working with the City Planning department and has developed a proposal for mountain bike trails at Munson Park. After the spring thaw, we'll begin scouting the land closely. There are some wet areas that we want to avoid. Our plan is to get the trail developed this spring and summer. For more information on these proposed trails, check the MMBA web site's Library section. Trail work days for these projects will be on the MMBA web calendar.

Western Chapter News

Long time president Marty Jones and treasurer Janet Jones passed the reins to a new team this year. Many thanks for their years of hard work and dedication. Our new chapter president is Scott Peterson, vice-president Dennis Murphy, treasurer Kim Peterson and secretary Jeff Schams. We are all looking forward to representing the MMBA on the west side of the state. Also congratulations to Scott Chambers and John Haffenden who were elected to serve as members at large.

Yankee Springs

The western chapter is having a trail workday at Yankee Springs on Saturday, March 30th at 10AM. Volunteers are to meet at the park entrance trailhead. We are also looking for volunteers to help out with the annual Yankee Springs Time Trial on Sunday April 21st. For more information or to volunteer please contact John Haffenden at (616) 897 - 2752 or by email at johnhaff@hotmail.com.

The western chapter is in the process of building a new trail in Allegan County. Working with Laketown Township, Marty Jones has won approval for approximately 4 miles of new single track. The trail is already marked with plans to cut trail this spring. The trail coordinator will be Marylynn Webster. If all goes well there may be possibilities in expanding single track in this area. More information and trailhead directions to follow. We are also working closely with the DNR to keep and maintain existing area trails. Dennis Murphy is trying to open communication lines with the City of Grand Rapids and Kent County on development of new local trails. There are new parks being planned for the GR area and we are hoping to get some singletrack included as part of their design.

Rick Plite along with three other western chapter members are working hard to bring a cyclocross series back to west Michigan. Specific locations have not been locked in yet but should be soon. And Robert from tailwinds has expressed interest in having one of his race sites for cross in GR next year.

The Western Chapter meets bi-monthly every 2nd Tuesday at 6:30pm at the Leonard Street Brann's. Everyone interested in getting involved or just looking to share a meal with other riders are encouraged to attend.

Mid-State Chapter News

Letter Campaign Request

The Mid-State chapter is requesting a letter campaign to support the Burchfield Advanced trail.

This is not the usual campaign where we are trying to stop a decision or to influence a vote, this campaign has three parts to it:

- 1) Is simply a way of offering a thanks to the Ingham County Parks Department for allowing such a trail to be built.
- 2) To quantify the number of people that either have ridden or plan to ride the trail. Currently there is no means to quantify the usership. It would be useful if the County had a clearer perspective that mountain bikers are the single largest user group in the park. Previous

to the creation of the advanced trail, mountain bikers were probably the smallest user group. This is very important!

- 3) If we can increase the positive perspective of mountain bikers within the County Park management's thinking, we may have greater success at creating new trails in other county parks in the near future.

New park developments are underway now and we would like to see mountain bike trails expanded in some of those areas. Keep in mind that there is no danger whatsoever that Burchfield is going away or is in jeopardy in any way. All we are trying to do right now is to give the County warm fuzzies when they think of mountain biking, and when new park developments come up or when the need to increase usership rears its ugly head - that mountain bike accessibility be at the top or near the top of their list of priorities. This letter campaign has no real time frame, you can write immediately or put it off until summer, this is hoped to be an ongoing campaign. Below is a sample letter, modify it any way you prefer. One suggestion is that you include your FAFL hours if you've contributed to the Burchfield project in any of the past three years of development.

That's it!

Thanks for your help and support!

Ingham County Parks Board

Bob Moore, Ingham County Parks Director

Ingham County Parks Department

P.O. Box 178

Mason, Michigan 48854

Dear Mr. Moore and the Ingham County Parks Board members,

As a member of the mountain biking community I would like to offer my thanks for your willingness to create and support a unique trail system such as the Burchfield advanced loop.

The creation and maintenance of a trail system is a significant commitment and as a member of the Michigan Mountain Biking Association, I do not take this commitment for granted. I hope your experience with the Michigan Mountain Biking Association has been positive. As a member of the Association, I take a definite level of pride in that we support our own activities and do our own

trail work and place little or no burden upon the park and its staff or its finances, in fact we support user fees and hope that mountain biker usership works to increase the park's user fee income. MMBA is one of the very few organizations that can say these things with all honesty.

Thanks are too often neglected and I would like to simply let you know that I sincerely appreciate this trail and visit the park as often as possible specifically to experience the advanced trail. I should note that prior to the creation of the advanced trail, I had never visited Burchfield Park *****{or alternately - visited the park but had not returned simply because the older trails offered little entertainment value or challenge}***** BE SURE TO CHANGE THIS SENTENCE!

Sincerely,

Dick or Jane Mountain Bike enthusiast

MMBA

MEMBER SHOPS

MICHIGAN MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION

The stores and services listed below are MMBA Members as of October 2001.

Those listed in bold text give 10% discounts to MMBA members!

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Grayling Area Visitors Council
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F.Y.I

We're lookin' to keep in touch - with new technology! If the MMBA doesn't have an email address for you already, send a note to membership@mmba.org so we can keep you up-to-date and keep costs down.

Michigan Mountain Bike Patrol Update:

2002 has begun, and the MMBP is looking to kick off its second year with a training weekend tentatively planned for April 13 and 14, 2002 at Pontiac Lake. Watch the MMBA Bulletin Board or the MMBP website for details.

Plans for 2002 include increasing total number of patrols from one to four. Yankee Springs and Fort Custer Recreation Areas have already given their approval. BIG THANKS !! to Steve Wester of the Southwest chapter for all his hard work.

I would like the MMBP to have a presence at the Championship Point Series races, as well as other local events. If you are an event organizer and would like the MMBP to provide onsite medical support, staffed by fellow MTB'ers, or are a bike store owner or manager who would like to support the patrol, or are interested in becoming a Michigan Mountain Bike Patrol member, contact Bill Rushford, Patrol Director, by phone: (586)757-8065 or by email: otr0724@aol.com.

Ride with First Aid Kits!!

MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY TO OFFER YOUTH MOUNTAIN BIKING COURSES

HOUGHTON, MI-- Michigan Technological University's Youth Programs Division is pleased to announce that it will again be offering mountain biking opportunities for Michigan Tech Youth Programs, currently in its 30th year of offering summer youth opportunities, will offer two sessions of mountain biking options in the Summer of 2002. Both courses will be offered the week of July 28 through August 03 and are open to students currently in grades 9-11.

The first class session, Mountain Biking, will give you the chance to checkout the beautiful environment of the Keweenaw Peninsula. Students will build mountain-biking skills while exploring trails near the scenic and historic Portage waterway. Students will ride in the morning, have lunch on the trail, and bike back to campus for dinner. Beyond learning about biking strategies, students will explore the ecology and natural history of the geologically unique Copper Country. Up to thirty miles may be ridden per day on sand, gravel, rock, mud, clay, and pavement-rain or shine!

The second option, Mountain Biking-Exploring the Keweenaw, is for students who want to try an off-

road adventure in the Keweenaw Peninsula with a mountain bike as transportation. Students will take advantage of numerous mining, logging, and snowmobile trails that connect them with the unique natural and cultural history of the Copper Country. Students can expect to traverse a challenging variety of hilly terrain on sand, rock, gravel, mud, and pavement. Students will ride on roads and trails to access rustic camping sites. Low-impact camping rules, safety issues, and local history/geology will be discussed on campus on Monday, followed by a short afternoon ride to determine your bicycling preparation and to introduce you to group-riding strategies. The 145-mile trip begins Tuesday morning with a maximum one-day distance of 45 miles. Each trail and campsite offers a different shoreline geology or northern forest ecosystem to observe, examine, and enjoy. Camping equipment will be transported by van to each night's rustic campsite.

Those wishing more information can visit the Michigan Tech Youth Programs website at:

<http://youthprograms.mtu.edu>

email yp@mtu.edu or call 906-487-2219.

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